(vii) Institution of National Award for voluntary organizations/individual for outstanding work in the field of road safety by Department of Road Transport and Highways.

(viii) Tightening of safety standards of vehicles.

(ix) Provision of cranes and ambulances to various State Governments/NGOs under National Highway Accident Relief Service Scheme. National Highways Authority of India also provides ambulances at a distance of 50 Kms. on each of its completed highways under its Operations and Maintenance contracts.

(x) Widening and improvements of National Highways from 2 lanes to 4 lanes and 4 lanes to 6 lanes etc.

Computerisation of RTOs and Zonal permits for vehicles

2750. SHRI AMIR ALAM KHAN: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to computerize all RTOs in the country and introduce zonal permits for transport vehicles across the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the PAN card number has been made mandatory for registration of vehicles; and

(d) if so, the details thereof alongwith the vehicles exempted from it?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIAPPA): (a) and (b) The Department of Road Transport and Highways has already made rules for issuance of Driving Licences and Registration Certificates in Smart Card mode. Computerisation of R.T.Os. is a pre-requisite for this purpose. Various States are at different stages of computerisation of R.T.Os. However, to assist the States, the Expenditure Finance Committee (EFC) under the Chairmanship of Secretary (Road Transport and Highways) has recently approved a proposal for interlinking of all R.T.Os. in the country, at a total cost of around Rs. 148.00 crores, which, *inter alia*, also includes computerisation of R.T.Os. in the country. There is, however, no proposal to introduce zonal permits for transport vehicles in the country.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise in view of answer to (c) above.

NH for Santhal Pargana in Jharkhand

2751. MS. MABEL REBELLO: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for Government not planning a National Highway for Santhal Pargana in Jharkhand;

(b) if so, by when this road would be constructed; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIAPPA): (a) to (c) At present, priority of the

Government is to remove deficiencies in the existing National Highway network and to upgrade the same to the National Highway standard rather than expanding the present network.

Acquisition of land for six-laning

2752. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Union Government has initiated action for the acquisition of land for six-laning of the roads, under the Golden Quadrilateral Project;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the quantum of land required and acquired for the purpose particularly in Uttar Pradesh; and

(d) the time by when the required land is likely to be acquired, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIAPPA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. So far six sections of Golden Quadrilateral have been awarded. The land requirement for two of these sections (Vadodara-Bharuch and Bharuch-Surat of NH-8) has been assessed as 43.5893 hectare and notification under section 3D of National Highways Act 1956, vesting the land in Central Government has been issued for 37.835 hectare. The balance four sections (Surat-Dahisar and Gurgaon-Jaipur on NH-8, Chennai-Tada and Chilkaluripet-Vijayawada on NH-5) were awarded on 21st February, 2008 and action for land acquisition is being initiated. For other sections, the action will be initiated after award of the project.

(c) Land for these projects to meet the contractual requirements for award of concession is already available. However, additional land would be required for facilities like service road, flyovers/interchanges, acceleration/deceleration lanes, entry-exit ramps etc. The requirement of the additional land can be assessed only after the concessionaire finalizes the design of the project, which is his responsibility under the approved Build Operate and Transfer (BOT) system of implementation of these projects.

As regards Uttar Pradesh, the project for six laning of Delhi-Agra section is under submission for Public Private Partnership Appraisal Committee (PPPAC) for approval and an estimated area of 180 hectare is to be acquired for this project.

(d) Since these projects are at various stages of implementation, it is too early to give time-frame for acquisition of entire land at this stage.

Road connecting Vallarpadam Container Terminal

2753. SHRI K. CHANDRAN PILLAI: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether necessary clearance has been given to the construction of four-lane road connecting Vallarpadam Container Terminal at Kochi;

(b) if so, the details of estimated cost of the project;

(c) the funds so far released for the purpose; and

(d) the present status of work and the details thereof?